



# DEEPWATER NEWS

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## Fiscal Year 2002 budget provides for Deepwater contract award

President Bush signed the final Fiscal Year 2002 budget Jan. 10, earmarking \$320,190,000 for the Integrated Deepwater System, the largest acquisition contract in Coast Guard history.

The Deepwater Program is an acquisition project aimed at upgrading the Coast Guard's aging white hull and aviation fleet, as well as the Service's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tools and its support and logistics pipelines. The final contract is scheduled to be awarded during the third quarter of fiscal year 2002.

"The President and Congress have shown their support of the Coast Guard and the Integrated Deepwater Program through adequate funding of the project," said RADM Patrick M. Stillman, Program Executive Officer of the Deepwater Program. "This is a significant step in providing for the future of the Coast Guard but our journey is a long one."

The FY02 appropriation of \$320.190M allows for an initial down payment in what will be a more than 20-year partnership with industry. The contract will be awarded to one company, known as the Prime, that will lead a team of shipbuilders, aircraft manufacturers, leaders in the technology industry and logisticians to upgrade existing Coast Guard assets and design and build out an integrated, interoperable system of ships and aircraft with improved information sharing capabilities and common supply sources.

Establishing a partnership with a single industry Prime is a central tenet of the Coast Guard's approach to overhaul of the Service's hardware. The multimission nature of the Coast Guard requires a diverse yet interdependent 'system of systems' that must work together to allow the men and women of the Coast Guard to leverage limited resources in executing many maritime missions.

The coincidental aging and recapitalization need of all legs of the legacy Deepwater fleet demands a balanced and integrated acquisition approach. Awarding the Deepwater contract to a Prime allows for numerous benefits and features, including seamless capabilities among system components to avoid unnecessary duplication or gaps, common internal and external interfaces, and technological and mechanical commonality between classes.